

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

212 N. Verlinden Ave., Ste A, Lansing, Michigan 48915



April 24, 2017

The Michigan American Legion Supports HB 4160

Thank you, Chairman Cole and committee members, for the opportunity to speak on House Bill 4160. My name is Mark Sutton and I am the Public Relations Director and Legislative Liaison for The American Legion.

For decades' organizations like the American Legion, VFW, Disabled American Veterans, Military of the Purple Heart, their Auxiliary organizations, and many more have relied on street solicitation to support their efforts to help struggling veterans.

For The American Legion Family when we use the Poppy program to request donations 100% of the proceeds shall go to supporting veterans in need. The month of May is the time of year most of our 400 Posts and Units in Michigan go to their communities to request donations and up until last year they would stand at the intersections and street corners asking the public for their loose change and small dollar donations in exchange of a simple Poppy, many of you may have attached to the visor of your vehicle.

For the veteran organizations, this type of fundraising brings in over 300,000 dollars a crossed the state to help veterans in their local committees. The money raised locally stays local and for many of the Posts it is the only extra money they can raise to help support veterans.

Members understand the risks and take precautions, to minimize them. However, there is nothing a member can do if a driver of a vehicle is determined to do harm to another human. Like in the case of the Lansing Firefighter. And accidents do happen, but they will happen regardless of the activity or place a person is at.

Thank you for your time and The American Legion asks that this committee supports HB 4160 help The American Legion Family continue to serve our American veterans. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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